

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05359 191041Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3100
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5359

EXDIS

NOFORN

BRUSSELS FOR USNMR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, SA
SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH SHAH

REF: TEHRAN 5346

1. IN DISCUSSING SAUDI ARABIA DURING MY JUNE 18 AUDIENCE, SHAH TOOK PAINS TO EXPRESS HIS SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT STATE IRAN-SAUDI RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES OVER THE OIL PRICE WAS INEVITABLE; "OTHERWISE SAUDIS WOULD LOOK LIKE STOOGES." HE FELT THERE WAS GOOD UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS AND THE CURRENT REGIME IN RIYADH WAS "PRE-DICTABLE."

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, NO ONE COULD PRETENND THAT THE SAUDI REGIME WAS THE MOST MODERN OR THE MOST ENLIGHTENED. THERE WAS, THEREFORE, ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WOULD HAVE TROUBLE. HE FELT WE NEEDED TO THINK IN TERMS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05359 191041Z

ANOTHER QADHAFI COMING TO POWER IN SAUDI ARABIA.

3. HE CONSIDERED SUCH A PROSPECT STAGGERING. HE SAID THE SAUDIS NOW USE THEIR VAST WEALTH CONSTRUCTIVELY AND FOR ANTI-COMMUNIST PURPOSES. IF THOSE FUNDS FELL INTO MISCHIEVOUS HANDS, THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BE AT RISK. THERE WAS A SERIOUS NEED TO STUDY THESE MATTERS AND HAVE SOME CONTINGENCY PLANS.

HE POINTED TO THE RECENT "SABOTAGE" IN THE OIL FIELDS AS
A DANGER SIGN.

4. I ASKED HIM WHETHER HE HAD EVIDENCE THAT THE OIL FIRE
WAS INDEED SABOTAGE. HE SAID THE SAUDIS SUSPECT IT. I SAID
ARAMCO FELT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT RESULTING FROM PIPE LEAKAGE.
HE BACKED OFF AND WE COMPROMISED ON THE AGREEMENT THAT IT DID,
IN ANY EVENT, DEMONSTRATE VULNERABILITY WHICH MIGHT BE TEMPTING
TO ARAB OR OTHER EXTREMISTS.

5. THE SHAH THEN ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD OR DR. KISSINGER
HAD "LEFT ANY NOTES" ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ABOUT CON-
TINGENCY PLANS FOR SAUDI ARABIA. I SAID I HAD TALKED WITH
DR. KISSINGER ON THE SUBJECT BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON. THE
SHAH SAID HE FELT UNABLE TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH THE SAUDIS
AND FELT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE THE US AS INTERMEDIARY.
HE SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND FORCES INTO SAUDI ARABIA
"IF HE IS ASKED" TO AVERT DISASTER THERE. IF HE IS NOT
ASKED, HE WILL DO NOTHING. BUT HE NEEDS TO KNOW WHO HIS
CONTACTS SHOULD BE, WHAT THEY WANT, AND WHERE HIS FORCES
SHOULD GO. I MADE NO RPT NO COMMENT AND THE SHAH CHANGED
THE SUBJECT.

6. COMMENT: IN HIS SUBSEQUENT RESUME, THE SHAH CAME BACK
TO THIS SUBJECT AND INDICATED IT IS ONE OF THE ITEMS HE
WISHES TO PURSUE FURTHER WITH ME IN AUDIENCES YET TO COME.
I HAVE NO RPT NO GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS
ISSUE AND THE EMBASSY SEEMS TO HAVE NO RPT NO FILES.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS A DELICATE MATTER WHICH I DO
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SECRET

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 05359 191041Z

NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITHOUT EXPLICIT
INSTRUCTIONS.
SULLIVAN

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